

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Friday, October 21, 2005

Hello this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Michigan took another step this week toward diversifying our economy and creating thousands of new jobs.

On Wednesday, the Michigan Senate voted overwhelmingly to pass bipartisan legislation that creates a new “21st Century Jobs for Michigan Fund”. And I want to applaud Majority Leader Sikkema and Minority Leader Emerson for their great leadership.

This major investment in diversifying our economy is a key piece of the comprehensive jobs package I announced more than eight months ago.

The Fund will allow the state and the private sector to invest a combined \$2 billion in Michigan’s economy to create thousands of new, high-paying jobs – jobs that’ll keep our kids in Michigan and that will not be outsourced to China, India or Mexico.

In the wake of recent economic news, this is especially welcome news for Michigan workers and businesses. And after negotiations that have been ongoing since last winter, it’s news that I welcome, too. I am so pleased that I am one step closer to signing a bill that creates jobs – all kinds of jobs for all kinds of workers all across Michigan.

The final step in starting the economic engine of this fund is a single vote in the House of Representatives, which has worked hard these past months in crafting a good jobs bill for Michigan workers.

But now I am urging the House to take the final step and pass this legislation, because jobs can’t wait.

I’ve had the privilege of meeting with citizens across Michigan recently to talk about my economic plan and to listen to their concerns about the economy.

I heard from a downsized manufacturing worker in Saginaw who’s trying to figure out the next step in finding a job to support his family.

I heard from students in Mt. Pleasant who are concerned about finding work that will allow them to stay in Michigan when they graduate.

I heard from small business owners in Southfield who are thirsty for venture capital to help them expand and start up businesses.

These are only a few Michigan stories, but they tell of an economic crisis that above all demands urgency. And, frankly, urgency is what we deserve from the House of Representatives and from your entire government.

Good government is government that is responsive to the citizens. And I hope that the House listens to them and takes a final vote on the Jobs for Michigan Fund – because each day that passes is a day lost in our work to turn Michigan’s economy around.

Thank you for listening.